

CLAIMS

I/we claim:

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1. An electronic device comprising:

data reading means operable to read metadata carried by an image carrier which carries a printed image;

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interpretation means operable to interpret the metadata to identify an instruction for operation of the device; and

execution means operable to cause the device to execute an instruction identified by the interpretation means.

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2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the device is a hand portable electronic device.

3. A device according to claim 2, wherein the device is a multi-function portable device.

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4. A device according to claim 2 or 3, wherein the device is operable as a cellular telephone.

5. A device according to any preceding claim, wherein the execution means is operable to cause the device to initiate communication in response to an identified instruction.

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6. A device according to any preceding claim, wherein the interpretation means is operable, in use, to recover personal data from the metadata.

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7. A device according to claim 6, wherein the personal data recovered by the interpretation means includes at least one of a name, telephone number and contact details.

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8. A device according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the execution means is operable in response to an identified instruction to initiate communication with an individual identified by the personal data.

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9. A device according to claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein the execution means is operable to add the personal data to the memory of the device, if not already contained therein.

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10. A device according to any preceding claim, wherein the data reading means is an optical device which responds to metadata carried in visible form by the image carrier.

11. A device according to claim 10, wherein the visible metadata is carried in the form of a bar code.

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12. A device according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the data reading means is a non-optical device operable to detect metadata carried in machine readable form by the image carrier.

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13. A device according to claim 12, wherein the machine readable metadata is provided by a radio frequency identification device.

14. A device according to any preceding claim, wherein the interpretation means is operable to retrieve an instruction contained within the metadata.

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15. A device according to claim 14, wherein the interpretation means interprets a retrieved instruction by reference to further stored interpretation data.

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16. A device according to claim 15, wherein the interpretation means is operable to receive metadata from the data reading means, in the form of an identifier, and uses the further stored interpretation data to recover an instruction identified by the identifier.

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17. A device according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the further stored interpretation data is stored remotely, the interpretation means being operable to communicate with the remote location to enable the interpretation means to use the further stored interpretation data.

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18. An image system comprising:

image means operable to receive data representing an image;

20 metadata means operable to generate metadata able to be interpreted to identify an instruction for an electronic device, and to associate the metadata with the image data;

data output means operable to output image data and associated metadata for generating a printed image which incorporates the metadata in a form readable by the electronic device.

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19. A system according to claim 18, wherein the electronic device for which an instruction is incorporated is a hand portable electronic device.

20. A system according to claim 19, wherein the electronic device is a
30 multi-function portable device.

21. A system according to claim 18 or 19, wherein the device is operable as a cellular telephone.

5 22. A system according to any of claims 18 to 21, wherein the metadata means is operable in response to a user input to generate metadata.

23. A system according to any of claims 18 to 22, wherein the metadata means is operable to retrieve stored data for incorporation into the metadata.

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24. A system according to any of claims 18 to 23, wherein the metadata means is operable to incorporate data representing the conditions in which the image has been captured.

15 25. A system according to any of claims 18 to 24, wherein the metadata means is operable to incorporate at least one of time data, date data, location data and operating settings of data capture means used to capture the represented image.

20 26. A system according to any of claims 18 to 25, wherein the metadata means is operable to analyse a represented image to identify a subject therein, and to provide data representative of the subject, for incorporation into the metadata.

25 27. A system according to any of claims 18 to 26, wherein the metadata means is operable to perform a selection of stored data from a stored data set, the selection being performed in dependence on data to be incorporated into the metadata, to recover additional data for incorporation.

30 28. A system according to any of claims 18 to 27, wherein the metadata is sufficient for the electronic device to identify an individual for the purpose of initiating communication with that individual.

29. A system according to claim 28, wherein the metadata contains personal data.

5 30. A system according to claim 29, wherein the personal data includes at least one of the name, telephone number and contact details of an individual.

31. A system according to any of claims 18 to 30, incorporated within a cellular telephone.

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32. A system according to any of claims 18 to 31, further comprising printer means operable to receive data representing an image, and associated metadata, and to generate a printed image which incorporates the metadata.

15 33. A system according to claim 32, wherein the metadata is incorporated within the image area of the printed image.

34. A system according to claim 33, wherein the metadata is incorporated in encoded form.

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35. A system according to any of claims 32 to 34, wherein the metadata is incorporated in an optically readable form.

25 36. A system according to claim 35, wherein the metadata is incorporated in the form of a bar code.

37. A system according to any of claims 32 to 34, wherein the metadata is incorporated in non-optical machine readable form.

30 38. A system according to claim 37, wherein the metadata is contained within a radio frequency identification device which is physically associated with the image carrier upon which the image is printed.

39. A system according to any of claims 32 to 38, wherein the metadata is written to a member which is initially separate from the image carrier on which the image is printed, and is attachable thereto.

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40. A system according to any of claims 32-39, wherein the metadata contains the instruction.

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41. A system according to any of claims 32-40, wherein the metadata contains sufficient information to identify the instruction by reference to further stored interpretation data.

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42. A system according to any of claims 32-41, wherein the metadata includes an identifier usable to recover an instruction identified by the identifier.

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43. A document bearing a printed image and incorporating machine readable metadata associated with the image, the metadata identifying an instruction for operation of an electronic device.

44. A method of creating a printed image in which:

metadata is generated, the metadata identifying an instruction for an electronic device;

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an association is formed between the metadata and data representing an image; and

the image data and associated metadata are output for generating a printed image which incorporates the metadata in a form readable by the electronic device.

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45. A user interface by which a user instructs a device to print an image, the interface comprising:

display means operable to provide a display for use by a user to select metadata for association with the image; and

- 5 processor means operable in response to a user selection to output image data and selected metadata for generating a printed image which incorporates the metadata in a form readable by a predetermined electronic device.